

14 September 2016

## National Nursing Forum harnesses the Power of Now to deliver a healthier Australia

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) will host its annual **National Nursing Forum** in **Melbourne on 26-28 October 2016**. The Forum will provide a platform for nurses from all over Australia and across all nursing disciplines to explore where nursing is as a profession today, share insights and discuss how nurses can harness their “now power” to lead the development of solutions to Australia’s health and aged care challenges.

Nurses have a broad knowledge of the political, societal and economic forces shaping health care as well as intimate experience of the needs of consumers accessing the health and aged care systems. Nurses understand the productivity and cost-effectiveness of both nursing services and health services as a whole, and are best placed to inform government about the appropriate distribution and composition of nursing workforces.

The Forum’s theme – “The Power of Now” – will focus on how nurses can harness and share this knowledge to shape the health care policy that will deliver a healthier Australia and better health care outcomes.

Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward FACN, CEO of the Australian College of Nursing says that right now nurse leadership is critical to influencing the strategic direction of Australia’s health system.

“The availability and appropriate distribution of a nursing workforce with the right education, skills and experience underpins the delivery of health care across all settings. Nurses must harness their present experience, skills and leadership in order to improve and shape future patient-centred care. The National Nursing Forum, ACN’s signature event, provides a unique platform for nurses from all spectrums of health care to learn from inspiring and preeminent nurse leaders, share insights and work together to advance nurse leadership, the nursing profession and health care outcomes for all Australians.”

The National Nursing Forum looks at the current and most vital issues nurses face in clinical, management, education and leadership arenas and the ways in which nurses can lead the necessary reform to improve patient experiences and outcomes. Delegates have an opportunity to actively participate in a jammed packed agenda covering the Power of the Nursing Workforce, the Power of Nursing Leadership, the Power of Nursing Care and the Power of Self Care.



“The program has been carefully designed to inspire and engage Forum delegates by offering interactive workshops, world-class keynote presenters and the opportunity to network and share with colleagues and peers. This year, we have added an exciting new Speed Leading session that gives emerging nurse leaders and early-to-mid-career nurses a career coaching and mentoring opportunity with senior nurse executives, clinicians and academics,” Adjunct Professor Ward said.

The National Nursing Forum 26-28 October will be held at the Melbourne Park Function Centre. To view the program and register to attend, please visit [ACN's website](#).

Ends \_\_\_\_\_

**For interviews, or for more information, please contact Wendy Hooke on 0297457541 or 0448 004 039 or email [wendy.hooke@acn.edu.au](mailto:wendy.hooke@acn.edu.au)**



Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward, CEO of ACN.



Australian  
College of  
Nursing

Advancing nurse leadership

**Notes to the Editors:**

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) is the national professional organisation for all nurse leaders and its aim is to ensure that the Australian community receives quality nursing care now and in the future. ACN is a membership organisation with members in all states and territories, health care settings and nursing specialties. ACN is also the Australian member of the International Council of Nurses headquartered in Geneva.

ACN, an organisation not afraid to intelligently challenge industry issues affecting the nursing profession or Australia's health care, is a well-connected and educated national body that drives change with people of influence to enhance the delivery of health services to the Australian community. ACN advances the skills and expertise of nurses to provide leadership in their contribution to the policy, practice and delivery of health care.

A membership organisation with members in all states and territories, health care settings and nursing specialities, ACN's membership includes many nurses in roles of influence, including senior nurses, organisational leaders, academics and researchers.

#### **What is the role of ACN to media?**

- ACN provides trusted, well supported information about Australia's health care system, the delivery of health care, nursing leadership and the nursing profession.
- ACN has a number of media-savvy spokespeople within the organisation who can comment on Australia's health care system, the delivery of health care, nursing leadership and the nursing profession.
- ACN offers media with an alternative voice to that of an industrial relations perspective.
- ACN is in-the-know and can comment on health care matters of interest.
- ACN can respond to media requests in a timely manner and with subject/clinical expert's available on-hand for further discussion.
- ACN regularly responds to government updates pertaining to Australia's health care system.

#### **What role does ACN play?**

ACN is here to act and deliver results as agents of change. They are working towards a brighter future through advancing nurse leadership to enhance the delivery of health care to all. The organisation provides nurse leaders with access to relevant information, support and education that will enhance Australia's reputation on the world stage.

#### **Social media channels:**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acnursing>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/acn\\_tweet](https://twitter.com/acn_tweet)

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/australian-college-of-nursing>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/acn\\_nursing](https://www.instagram.com/acn_nursing)